

this, but that is the way the world's greatest democracy is supposed to function.

Again, three of the most pressing issues, three of the top priorities of this Nation's veterans, all addressed in the first 6 six months of this Congress, all addressed to the satisfaction of a wide, bipartisan VSO community that is grateful for it.

I think, in trying to find these challenges and understanding them, people are trying to get at the heart of this. I do think there are great frustrations, and I have said, totally indefensible of the examples given.

But when we had this debate before, there were some examples of bad managers inadvertently firing people who were pointing out things that the manager was doing; and the due process considerations got that person their job back, and we got rid of the manager.

I think that when we first started debating this, I made the case that this could be a right-to-work bill in disguise. This bill is not that. This bill, as the chairman said, was not the intention. The intention was accountability. The intention of the bill was to streamline the process while protecting those due process rights.

I am grateful that the chairman, as always, kept his word. He followed through and he negotiated that.

The thing that I would say before closing here, Mr. Speaker, is that I agree with the majority leader. I think the combination of many things that we are doing possesses the potential to see real reforms moving in the right direction. Something that I think hasn't been mentioned here—that the Secretary did with consultation with the chairman, myself, and others—was that he took the action of streamlining the medical record procedure between the DOD, and the VA added to that.

There is transformational, generational-type change happening at the VA, but none of this will matter. And the majority leader said he expects to see that. We must ensure that it happens. We must ensure the accountability, we must monitor, we must ask that it is happening, and we must come back at this again. If there is a glitch that was unintended, let's come back at it again in this same manner of reaching an outcome.

This is a positive day, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that those folks paying attention to this and watching—certainly the veterans, but everyone—know that Congress can work together; Congress can take on pressing issues; Congress can come up with bipartisan solutions; and Congress can agree that the thing that defines us most is not Republican or Democrat—it is U.S. citizen, it is veteran, and it is care for them.

Today I am proud to get this through here. Let's send it on to the President, and let's all celebrate the Administration signing this into law and moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today is a proud day, I think, for this Nation. The United States of America does more for its veterans than all other nations in the world combined; and I don't think that, on some days, that is even enough for these heroes that have served us and many of whom have spoken this afternoon.

I want to express my appreciation to the minority and the majority staff, and to Sergeant Major WALZ for walking hand in hand. As he said, this was not an easy process. There were a lot of difficult issues that we both dealt with.

I also want to thank our friends on the Senate side who also went through the same process and brought a bill to the floor that we can all, I think, enthusiastically support.

The Secretary said when he was first chosen—and I might add, 100-0, Secretary Shulkin was a bipartisan agreement in the Senate. I think he is a leader to transform the VA. He asked for accountability. He said: I cannot do my job as Secretary if I don't have this piece of legislation.

So he was very supportive, along with President Trump, so we gave him that.

We also protected due process rights for the employees who work for the VA—a very important issue.

Whistleblower protections. We could not do our job, Mr. Speaker, if we did not have these whistleblowers. There are 350,000 employees, 154 medical centers, and over 800 outpatient clinics. There is no way that we could monitor that without their help. So their protections are there.

Mr. Speaker, I want to encourage both sides of the aisle to support S. 1094, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support increased accountability and whistleblower protection at the Department of Veterans Affairs. And I recognize that S. 1094 represents a compromise approach that was crafted specifically to address severe, longstanding problems at VA hospitals.

But a number of S. 1094's provisions concern me. As Vice Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, these concerns would be amplified if these provisions were applied to other contexts or across the federal government in future legislation.

A partial list of problematic provisions includes:

The bill requires a lower standard of evidence that would allow removal, demotion, and other disciplinary actions even if the majority of evidence is exculpatory.

The bill supersedes existing collective bargaining agreements.

The bill provides for the clawback and forfeiture of bonuses and pensions under a standard that is broad and susceptible to abuse.

The bill denies senior executives of the right to appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board, which they have under current law.

The bill imposes unreasonable timelines on the ability of employees to respond to allegations that may lead to discipline and eliminates the ability of the Merit System Protection Board to mitigate penalties that may have been overly harsh and raise due process concerns.

The bill prohibits the use of administrative leave for employees challenging demotions. This provision could also force employees to use their accrued sick or annual leave while on appeal, which Courts have considered a taking in violation of the Constitution.

While S. 1094 is a bipartisan compromise aimed at dealing with a specific and troubled department, a number of its provisions are problematic and would not serve as an example for future civil service-related legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 378, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit on H.R. 2581;

Passage of H.R. 2581, if ordered; and

Passage of S. 1094.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### VERIFY FIRST ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 2581) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the provision of social security numbers as a condition of receiving the health insurance premium tax credit, offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 193, nays 231, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 305]

## YEAS—193

Adams Gabbard Nolan  
 Aguilar Gallego Norcross  
 Barragán Garamendi O'Halleran  
 Bass Gonzalez (TX) O'Rourke  
 Beatty Gottheimer Pallone  
 Bera Green, Al Panetta  
 Beyer Green, Gene Pascarell  
 Bishop (GA) Grijalva Payne  
 Blumenauer Gutiérrez Pelosi  
 Blunt Rochester Hanabusa Perlmutter  
 Bonamici Hastings Peters  
 Boyle, Brendan Heck Peterson  
 F. Higgins (NY) Pingree  
 Brady (PA) Himes Pocan  
 Brown (MD) Hoyer Polis  
 Brownley (CA) Huffman Price (NC)  
 Bustos Jackson Lee Quigley  
 Butterfield Jayapal Raskin  
 Capuano Jeffries Rice (NY)  
 Carbajal Johnson (GA) Richmond  
 Cárdenas Johnson, E. B. Rosen  
 Carson (IN) Jones Roybal-Allard  
 Cartwright Kaptur Ruiz  
 Castor (FL) Keating Ruppertsberger  
 Castro (TX) Kelly (IL) Rush  
 Chu, Judy Kennedy Ryan (OH)  
 Cicilline Khanna Sánchez  
 Clark (MA) Kihuen Sarbanes  
 Clarke (NY) Kildee Schakowsky  
 Clay Kilmer Schiff  
 Cleaver Kind Schneider  
 Clyburn Krishnamoorthi Schrader  
 Cohen Kuster (NH) Scott (VA)  
 Connolly Langevin Scott, David  
 Conyers Larsen (WA) Serrano  
 Cooper Larson (CT) Sewell (AL)  
 Correa Lawrence Shea-Porter  
 Costa Lawson (FL) Sherman  
 Courtney Lee Sinema  
 Crist Levin Sires  
 Crowley Lewis (GA) Slaughter  
 Cuellar Lieu, Ted Smith (WA)  
 Davis (CA) Lipinski Soto  
 Davis, Danny Loeb sack Speier  
 DeFazio Lofgren Suozzi  
 DeGette Lowenthal Swallow (CA)  
 Delaney Lowey Takano  
 DeLauro Lujan Grisham, Thompson (CA)  
 DelBene M. Thompson (MS)  
 Demings Luján, Ben Ray Titus  
 DeSaulnier Lynch Tonko  
 Deutch Maloney, Torres  
 Dingell Carolyn B. Tsongas  
 Doggett Maloney, Sean Vargas  
 Doyle, Michael Matsui Veasey  
 F. McCollum Vela  
 Duncan (TN) McEachin Velázquez  
 Ellison McGovern Visclosky  
 Engel McNeerney Walz  
 Eshoo Meeks Wasserman  
 Espallat Meng Schultz  
 Esty (CT) Moore Waters, Maxine  
 Evans Moulton Watson Coleman  
 Foster Murphy (FL) Welch  
 Frankel (FL) Nadler Wilson (FL)  
 Fudge Neal Yarmuth

## NAYS—231

Abraham Bucshon DesJarlais  
 Aderholt Budd Diaz-Balart  
 Allen Burgess Donovan  
 Amash Byrne Duffy  
 Amodei Calvert Duncan (SC)  
 Arrington Carter (GA) Dunn  
 Babin Carter (TX) Emmer  
 Bacon Chabot Estes (KS)  
 Banks (IN) Chaffetz Farenthold  
 Barletta Cheney Faso  
 Barr Coffman Ferguson  
 Barton Cole Fitzpatrick  
 Bergman Collins (GA) Fleischmann  
 Biggs Collins (NY) Flores  
 Bilirakis Comer Fortenberry  
 Bishop (MI) Comstock Foxx  
 Bishop (UT) Conaway Franks (AZ)  
 Black Cook Frelinghuysen  
 Blackburn Costello (PA) Gaetz  
 Blum Cramer Gallagher  
 Bost Crawford Garrett  
 Brady (TX) Culberson Gibbs  
 Brat Curbelo (FL) Gohmert  
 Bridenstine Davidson Goodlatte  
 Brooks (AL) Davis, Rodney Gosar  
 Brooks (IN) Denham Gowdy  
 Buchanan Dent Graves (GA)  
 Buck DeSantis Graves (LA)

Graves (MO) Massie  
 Grothman Mast  
 Guthrie McCarthy  
 Harper McCaul  
 Harris McClintock  
 Hartzler McHenry  
 Hensarling McKinley  
 Herrera Beutler McMorris  
 Hice, Jody B. Rodgers  
 Higgins (LA) McSally  
 Hill Meadows  
 Holding Meehan  
 Hollingsworth Messer  
 Hudson Mitchell  
 Huizenga Moolenaar  
 Hultgren Mooney (WV)  
 Hunter Mullin  
 Hurd Murphy (PA)  
 Issa Newhouse  
 Jenkins (KS) Noem  
 Jenkins (WV) Nunes  
 Johnson (LA) Olson  
 Johnson (OH) Palazzo  
 Jordan Palmer  
 Joyce (OH) Paulsen  
 Katko Pearce  
 Kelly (MS) Perry  
 Kelly (PA) Pittenger  
 King (IA) Poe (TX)  
 King (NY) Poliquin  
 Kinzinger Posey  
 Knight Ratcliffe  
 Kustoff (TN) Reed  
 Labrador Reichert  
 LaHood Renacci  
 LaMalfa Rice (SC)  
 Lamborn Roby  
 Lance Roe (TN)  
 Latta Rogers (AL)  
 Lewis (MN) Rogers (KY)  
 LoBiondo Rohrabacher  
 Long Rokita  
 Loudermilk Wittman  
 Love Rooney, Francis  
 Lucas Rooney, Thomas  
 Luetkemeyer J.  
 MacArthur Ros-Lehtinen  
 Marchant Roskam  
 Marino Ross  
 Marshall Rothfus  
 Rouzer Rouzer

## NOT VOTING—6

Cummings Griffith  
 Granger Johnson, Sam Napolitano  
 Weber (TX)

□ 1603

Messrs. VALADAO, GOHMERT, RUSSELL, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Messrs. WITTMAN, WALKER, BROOKS of Alabama, GROTHMAN, YOUNG of Alaska, and WENSTRUP changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, KELLY of Illinois, and FRANKEL of Florida changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

## RECORDED VOTE

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 238, noes 184, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 306]

## AYES—238

Abraham Gohmert Olson  
 Aderholt Goodlatte Palazzo  
 Allen Gosar Palmer  
 Amash Gowdy Paulsen  
 Amodei Graves (GA) Pearce  
 Arrington Graves (LA) Perry  
 Babin Graves (MO) Peterson  
 Bacon Grothman Pittenger  
 Banks (IN) Guthrie Poe (TX)  
 Barletta Harper Poliquin  
 Barr Harris Posey  
 Barton Hartzler Ratcliffe  
 Bergman Hensarling Reed  
 Biggs Herrera Beutler Reichert  
 Bilirakis Hice, Jody B. Renacci  
 Bishop (MI) Higgins (LA) Rice (SC)  
 Bishop (UT) Hill Roby  
 Black Holding Roe (TN)  
 Blackburn Hollingsworth Rogers (AL)  
 Blum Hudson Rogers (KY)  
 Bost Huizenga Rohrabacher  
 Brady (TX) Hultgren Rokita  
 Brat Hunter Rooney, Francis  
 Bridenstine Hurd  
 Brooks (AL) Issa J.  
 Buchanan Jenkins (KS) Ros-Lehtinen  
 Buck Jenkins (WV) Roskam  
 Bucshon Johnson (LA) Ross  
 Budd Johnson (OH) Rothfus  
 Burgess Jones Rouzer  
 Byrne Jordan Royce (CA)  
 Calvert Joyce (OH) Russell  
 Carter (GA) Kaptur Rutherford  
 Carter (TX) Katko Sanford  
 Chabot Kelly (MS) Scalise  
 Chaffetz Kelly (PA) Schweikert  
 Cheney King (IA) Scott, Austin  
 Coffman King (NY) Sensenbrenner  
 Cole Kinzinger Sessions  
 Collins (GA) Knight Shimkus  
 Collins (NY) Kustoff (TN) Shuster  
 Comer Labrador Simpson  
 Comstock LaHood Sinema  
 Conaway LaMalfa Smith (MO)  
 Cook Lamborn Smith (NE)  
 Costello (PA) Lance Smith (NJ)  
 Cramer Latta Smith (TX)  
 Crawford LoBiondo Smucker  
 Cuellar Long Stefanik  
 Culberson Loudermilk Stewart  
 Curbelo (FL) Love Stivers  
 Davidson Lucas Taylor  
 Davis, Rodney Luetkemeyer Tenney  
 DeFazio Lynch Thompson (PA)  
 Denham MacArthur Thornberry  
 Dent Marino Tiberi  
 DeSantis Marshall Tipton  
 DesJarlais Massie Trotter  
 Donovan Mast Turner  
 Duffy McCarthy Valadao  
 Duncan (SC) McCaul Wagner  
 Duncan (TN) McClintock Walberg  
 Dunn McHenry Walden  
 Emmer McKinley Walker  
 Estes (KS) McMorris Walorski  
 Farenthold Rodgers Walters, Mimi  
 Faso McSally Webber (FL)  
 Ferguson Meadows Wenstrup  
 Fitzpatrick Meehan Westerman  
 Fleischmann Messer Williams  
 Flores Mitchell Wilson (SC)  
 Fortenberry Moolenaar Wittman  
 Foxx Mooney (WV) Womack  
 Franks (AZ) Mullin Woodall  
 Frelinghuysen Murphy (PA) Yoder  
 Gaetz Newhouse Young (AK)  
 Gallagher Noem Young (IA)  
 Garrett Nunes Zeldin  
 Gibbs O'Halleran

## NOES—184

Adams Brown (MD) Clarke (NY)  
 Aguilar Brownley (CA) Clay  
 Barragán Bustos Cleaver  
 Bass Butterfield Clyburn  
 Beatty Capuano Cohen  
 Bera Carbajal Connolly  
 Beyer Cárdenas Conyers  
 Bishop (GA) Carson (IN) Cooper  
 Blumenauer Cartwright Correa  
 Blunt Rochester Castor (FL) Costa  
 Bonamici Castro (TX) Courtney  
 Boyle, Brendan Chu, Judy Crist  
 F. Cicilline Crowley  
 Brady (PA) Clark (MA) Davis (CA)

Davis, Danny	Kilmer	Price (NC)
DeGette	Kind	Quigley
Delaney	Krishnamoorthi	Raskin
DeLauro	Kuster (NH)	Rice (NY)
DelBene	Langevin	Richmond
Demings	Larsen (WA)	Rosen
DeSaulnier	Larson (CT)	Roybal-Allard
Deutch	Lawrence	Ruiz
Diaz-Balart	Lawson (FL)	Ruppersberger
Dingell	Lee	Rush
Doggett	Levin	Ryan (OH)
Doyle, Michael F.	Lewis (GA)	Sánchez
Ellison	Lieu, Ted	Sarbanes
Engel	Lipinski	Schakowsky
Eshoo	Loeb	Schiff
Espallat	Lofgren	Schneider
Esty (CT)	Lowenthal	Schrader
Evans	Lowe	Scott (VA)
Foster	Lujan Grisham, M.	Scott, David
Frankel (FL)	Luján, Ben Ray	Serrano
Fudge	Maloney,	Sewell (AL)
Gabbard	Carolyn B.	Shea-Porter
Galego	Maloney, Sean	Sires
Garamendi	Matsui	Slaughter
Gonzalez (TX)	McCollum	Smith (WA)
Gotthelmer	McEeachin	Soto
Green, Al	McGovern	Speier
Green, Gene	McNerney	Suozi
Grijalva	Meeks	Swalwell (CA)
Gutiérrez	Meng	Takano
Hanabusa	Moore	Thompson (CA)
Hastings	Moulton	Thompson (MS)
Heck	Murphy (FL)	Titus
Higgins (NY)	Nadler	Tonko
Himes	Neal	Torres
Hoyer	Nolan	Tsongas
Huffman	Norcross	Vargas
Jackson Lee	O'Rourke	Veasey
Jayapal	Pallone	Vela
Jeffries	Panetta	Velázquez
Johnson (GA)	Pascarell	Visclosky
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Walz
Keating	Pelosi	Wasserman
Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	Schultz
Kennedy	Peters	Waters, Maxine
Khanna	Pingree	Watson Coleman
Kihuen	Pocan	Welch
Kildee	Polis	Wilson (FL)
		Yarmuth

## NOT VOTING—8

Cummings	Johnson, Sam	Sherman
Granger	Lewis (MN)	Weber (TX)
Griffith	Napolitano	

□ 1610

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 306.

#### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President shall immediately disclose his tax return information to the House of Representatives and the American people.

Whereas, President Nixon explained that "People have got to know whether or not their President is a crook" when he invited the Joint Committee on Taxation to audit his returns after the Internal Revenue Service gave him an unwarranted tax discount;

Whereas, according to the Tax History Project, every President since

Gerald Ford has disclosed his tax return information to the public;

Whereas, the Chairmen of the Committee on Ways and Means, Joint Committee on Taxation, and the Committee on Finance have the authority to request the President's tax returns under section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

Whereas, pursuant to Article I, section 7, clause 1 of the Constitution, often referred to as the Origination Clause, the House of Representatives has the sole authority to initiate legislation that raises revenue for the national government, and the Committee on Ways and Means is considering a comprehensive reform of the Tax Code;

Whereas, according to media reports analyzing President Trump's leaked 2005 tax return, we know that had his own tax plan been in place, he would have paid an estimated mere 3.48 percent rate instead of a 24 percent rate, saving him \$31.3 million;

Whereas, according to The New York Times, the President used a legally dubious tax maneuver in 1995 that could have allowed him to avoid paying any Federal taxes for 18 years;

Whereas, President Trump holds "interests as the sole or principal owner in approximately 500 separate entities," according to his attorneys, and the President's tax plan proposes to cut the tax rate on such "pass-through" entities from 39.6 percent to 15 percent;

Whereas, one analysis estimated that President Trump would personally save \$6.7 million from two tax breaks included in the Republicans' first tax cut, which they misleadingly call the American Health Care Act;

Whereas, without the President's tax returns, the American people cannot determine how much he will personally benefit from proposed changes to the Tax Code;

Whereas, an ABCNews/Washington Post poll found that 74 percent of Americans would like President Trump to disclose his tax returns and the most-signed petition on the White House website calls for the release of the President's tax return information to verify compliance with the Emoluments Clause, with more than 1,097,000 signatures as of date of this resolution;

Whereas, disclosure of the President's tax returns could help those investigating Russian influence in the 2016 election better understand the President's financial ties to the Russian Federation, Russian businesses, and Russian individuals;

Whereas, after breaking his pledge to make his tax returns available, President Trump instead presented a one-page letter from a law firm giving him a clean bill of health on any business dealings with Russians, but failed to note that the very same law firm boasted of the "prestigious honor" of being named "Russia Law Firm of the Year" for 2016;

Whereas, former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey, before he was fired by President

Trump, publicly confirmed that the Bureau has been investigating potential ties between President Trump's campaign and Russia since July and that the Russian President Vladimir Putin favored a Trump electoral victory;

Whereas, President Trump's son-in-law and senior advisor, Jared Kushner, met during the Presidential transition at the behest of the Russian Ambassador with Sergey N. Gorkov, a graduate of a school run by the successor to the KGB and who was appointed by Vladimir Putin to head a Russian state-owned bank that is on the U.S. sanctions list;

Whereas, Mr. Kushner proposed establishing a secret back channel of communications directly to Vladimir Putin, even considering the use of Russian embassy facilities to do so;

Whereas, Attorney General Jeff Sessions falsely stated during his Senate confirmation hearing that he "did not have communications with the Russians," when in fact he met at least twice during the campaign with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak;

Whereas, former Director Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee that President Trump had asked him in the Oval Office about "letting Flynn go," referring to the investigation into former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn's business ties to Russia;

Whereas, President Trump stated on May 11, 2017, that he had decided that he was going to fire Comey because of "this Russia thing";

Whereas, former Director Comey, on June 8, 2017, testified that Special Counsel Robert Mueller could investigate whether President Trump's actions with regard to Director Comey and the Flynn investigation constituted obstruction of justice;

Whereas, in 2013, President Trump said, "Well, I've done a lot of business with the Russians. They're smart and they're tough," and President Trump's son, Donald Trump, Jr., told a news outlet in 2008 that "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets";

Whereas, against the advice of ethics attorneys and the nonpartisan Office of Government Ethics, the President has refused to divest his ownership stake in his businesses;

Whereas, the Director of the nonpartisan Office of Government Ethics said that the President's plan to transfer his business holdings to a trust managed by family members is "meaningless" and "does not meet the standards that . . . every President in the past four decades has met";

Whereas, the Emoluments Clause was included in the Constitution for the express purpose of preventing Federal officials from accepting any "present, Emolument, Office, or Title . . . from any King, Prince, or foreign state";

Whereas, the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., has hired a